

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application, and the indication that the subject matter of claims 11-14 is allowable. The features of claim 11 have been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 30 is also amended accordingly. Claims 15-25 and claims 27-29 are amended to be dependent from claim 30, and claim 26 is cancelled. Based on the foregoing amendments and/or the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 30 was tentatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Liu et al. (USP 6,339,025). In response, Applicants have amended claim 30 to incorporate the features as claimed in claim 11. For at least the reason that claim 11 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter, claim 30 (as amended) patently defines over the cited art of record. In particular, Applicants have amended claim 30 to incorporate therein the limitations that the unreacted portions of the silicon layer will be removed and a diffusion barrier layer will be formed overlaying the copper silicide.

As claim 30 is allowable, dependent claims 15-25, 27-29 should also be allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-10 were tentatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Liu et al. in view of Hoshino (USP 4,910,169). In response, Applicants have incorporate claim 11 into claim 1. For at least the reason that claim 11 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter, claim 1 (and dependent claims 2-10, 12-14) is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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